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Message Text

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63
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 L-03

H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 RSR-01 /174 W
---------- 053177
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5580
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 4249

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EGEN, EAGR, ENRG, EEC
SUBJECT: JULY 23-24 EC COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS) - HIGHLIGHTS

1. SUMMARY: THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (FOREIGN MINISTERS) MET JULY 23-24, AND DEALT WITH A HEAVY AGENDA IN ITS LAST SESSION BEFORE THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS. THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIONS TAKEN CONCERNED; AGREEMENT ON LANGUAGE THE EC WILL PROPOSE FOR INSERTION IN THE DRAFT DECLARATION UNDER PREPARATION IN GENEVA BY THE GATT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE MTN (SEE EC BRUSSELS 4225), A DECISION TO REFER BACK TO THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR GATT ARTICLE 24:6 CONCESSIONS (SEE EC BRUSSELS 4224) AND THE
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COMMUNITY'S INITIAL APPROACH IN THE PRENEGOTIATING CONFERENCE OF

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JULY 25-26 WITH THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATES AND COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLES.

2. THE COUNCIL ALSO HEARD COMMISSIONER LARDINOIS' ON HIS SOYBEAN DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON (SEE EC BRUSSELS 4229), ADOPTED CERTAIN CHANGES IN ITS DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES, INSTRUCTED THE PERMREPS TO EXAMINE IN DETAIL THE PROBLEM OF IMPORTS OF SUGAR FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PREPARATORY TO THE UN SUGAR CONFERENCE, AND AGREED THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES AND TO THE EXTENSION OF THE LONG-TERM AGREEMENT. THE COUNCIL ALSO TOOK A NUMBER OF OTHER ROUTINE DECISIONS. END SUMMARY.

3. PRE- NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE WITH ASSOCIATES AND ASSOCIABLES: THE COUNCIL FINALIZED THE COMMUNITY POSITION FOR PRESENTATION TO THE ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE STATES BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT NORGAARD AT THE CONFERENCE ON JULY 25. THE COUNCIL ALSO AGREED ON THE PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE OF "CERTAIN NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES" WHICH HAS REQUESTED OBSERVER STATUS. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE ARE EGYPT, TUNISIA, ALGERIA AND MOROCCO.) THE COUNCIL AGREED ON A ANODYNE OPENING STATEMENT BY NORGAARD, SAYING SIMPLY THAT THE DIFFERENT MEMBER STATES HAD DIFFERENT IDEAS ABOUT THE FORM OF THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY, AND THE ASSOCIATES AND ASSOCIABLES, AND WANTED TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS. "RECIPROCITY" WILL NOT BE EXPLICITY MENTIONED IN THE OPENING STATEMENT, AND IF THE QUESTION IS RAISED, NORGAARD WILL SAY SIMPLY THAT THE NINE HAVE NOT YET REACHED A DECISION ON THE SUBJECT. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINE ARE READY, IF NECESSARY, TO HOLD AN AD HOC EC COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 25 OR 26 TO CONSIDER A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO ANY PARTICULAR POINTS RAISED AT THE CONFERENCE.

4. DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES OF THE COUNCIL: THE COUNCIL ADOPTED INITIAL PRACTICAL MEASURES TO IMPROVE ITS OPERATIONS AND INSTRUCTED THE PERMREPS TO CONTINUE THEIR CONSIDERATION OF OTHER MEASURES.
THE MEASURES ADOPTED INCLUDE: A REQUEST THAT THE REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES BE AVAILABLE NOT
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LATER THAN ONE WEEK BEFORE THE COUNCIL MEETING AT WHICH THEY ARE TO BE DISCUSSED; AND A REQUEST THAT MEMBER STATES FIX THE DATE OF NATIONAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE MINISTERS IN QUESTION ARE FREE TO PARTICIPATE IN COUNCIL MEETINGS ON MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS. ANOTHER MEASURE LIMITS THE SIZE OF MEMBER STATE DELEGATIONS FOR ANY ONE SUBJECT AT COUNCIL MEETINGS TO SIX REPRESENTATIVES.

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5. TEXTILES: THE COUNCIL RECORDED ITS AGREEMENT ON THE COMMUNITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON TEXTILE TRADE AND THE EXTENSION OF THE LONG-TERM AGREEMENT. IT WAS AGREED TO ADOPT THE NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES REQUIRED FOR THIS PURPOSE IN DUE COURSE FOR THE ACTUAL COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS PLANNED FOR OCTOBER IN GENEVA. (SEE EC BRUSSELS 4004 AND 4165.)

6. BUDGET: THE COUNCIL APPROVED A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET OF APPROXIMATELY 880 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT (ONE U.A. EQUALS APPROXIMATELY DOLS 1.20) FOR FEOGA, BRINGING THE 1973 FEOGA BUDGET TO ABOUT 3.6 BILLION U.A. MOST OF THE INCREASE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE NEED TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS BUTTER. (SEE EC BRUSSELS 3877).

7. MULTINATIONAL FIRMS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION: THE DANISH DELEGATION SUBMITTED TWO PAPERS TO THE COUNCIL, ONE ON MULTINATIONAL FIRMS, AND THE OTHER ON CONSUMER PROTECTION. THE COUNCIL REQUESTED THE COMMISSION TO TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT IN DRAWING UP ITS PROPOSALS FOR THE SUBJECTS CONCERNED.

8. STANDSTILL RIGHTS: THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD GIVE A OSITIVE REPLY TO CANADA'S REQUEST TO BEGIN NEGO-TIATIONS ON QUALITY WHEAT ANS SOFT WHEAT ON THE BASIS OF THE "STANDSTILL" RIGHTS DATING BACK TO 1962.

9. COKING COAL: THE COUNCIL APPROVED A REGULATION PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION FOR SUBSIDIES FOR COLING COAL. THIS IS A SUBJECT WHICH THE COUNCIL HAD CONSIDERED PREVIOUSLY (ON MAY 22 AND JUNE 25-26) WITH INTERVENING REFERRALS BACK TO THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND THE COMMISSION. THE SUBSIDIES WILL BE FUNDED UNDER A COMPLICATED FORMULA BY THE COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY, THE STEEL INDUSTRY (ACCORDING TO ITS CONSUMPTION OF UNCLASSIFIED

COKING COAL), AND THE MEMBER STATES. THE NETHERLANDS REPORTEDLY DID NOT FEEL ALL ITS OBJECTIONS (SEE EC BRUSSELS 3572) HAD BEEN MET AND ABSTAINED FROM THE FINAL VOTE.
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